

MR. MEACHAM: I'm an underground coal miner for Skyline Mine. My name is Kim Meacham and I chose to speak here today because I do believe I have some insight on the coal rate and the rates that are charged for non-ferrous metals, being a miner for many years. I think that the state school trust board charges 16 and two-thirds percent for their oil, gas, and associated hydrocarbon. That's the rate. Right now, from what the information I have gathered, it says that we are paying a 22 percent rate. Now, 22 and 16 and two-thirds, that's a pretty good rate. I say that the Federal Government is getting their share. Now, that's a 5 percent increase right there, straight out. And with the concerns for the climate impact, I worked for Skyline for ten years and I can tell you that every drop of oil, trash, or empty container is scrutinized by MSHA and Becker. There's nothing that gets by them. So if we were or we can be fined large amounts of money for accumulations of oil that you would see on the top of the motor of your own personal vehicle, and it will be in the thousands, that money goes into the federal treasury, too. So, you know, when you look back and see all the bonuses and all the fines and things that can be attributed to the coal mine, they're overregulated right as it is. So I attended your January 26 regional haze meeting and I heard them talk about the grand vistas and the overlooks in Utah. Well, I was raised in the Salt Lake Valley, I traveled to the Capitol overlook many times at night. So what do I see? I go there now, I see about a mile and a half of disability. That is NO₂, nitros oxide. And nitros oxide is here nor there. It's a 1.53 gravity, it's going to be heavier. It's not going away, it blows over the valley, point of the mountain, and goes into Provo. When the canyon winds pick it up, it sends it up to the top of the mountain, drops it over into little Canyonlands. It finds its lowest point in gravity. It's going to stay on the ground in the invisible river and goes right over the top. It's not going anywhere. When it ends up over there, we get blamed for it, that it came from here. I grew up there. It's only caused by about 150,000 bills in Salt Lake Valley. So that's where I want to leave it and thank you for your time and I imagine you'll make the right decision. Thank you.